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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
2430 E St., N. W.  
Washington 25, D. C.

29 March 1949

Mr. Malcolm A. Frost  
Head, BBC Monitoring Service  
Caversham Park  
Reading, England

Dear Malcolm:

Further to my letter of 25 February expressing regret at the proposed cutback in BBC monitoring, I have now also sounded out consumer reaction to the proposal. Not unexpectedly, the prospect of reduced German and Austrian coverage is accorded a very poor reception by the responsible intelligence branches. Their attitude is illustrated in the following memorandum:

"The discontinuance of coverage of western Germany and western Austria is the source of considerable concern in view of the following facts:

a. Germany. FBIB is one of the fastest sources of information and affords material not ordinarily received through normal channels for two days to one month, if at all. It frequently amplifies information otherwise reported in insufficient detail. The discontinuance of this valuable source, even with DANA and DPD news services maintained, is regretted.

b. Austria. The discontinuance of monitoring of western Austrian transmitters gives rise to an even more serious reporting lack than in the case of Germany. While previous coverage was not considered adequate, it had been anticipated that the service might eventually be improved. With the discontinuance of all radio coverage of western Austria, even coverage of APA news service is now cut off, and all Austrian intelligence information through broadcast and press media is thereby eliminated, since the one transmitter in eastern Austria is Soviet controlled and utilized primarily for cultural purposes, normally contributing nothing of value to intelligence."

I earnestly hope that you will be able to postpone curtailment of your German staff until the development of operations on

Enclosure

283

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Cyprus makes a decision possible as to whether economies cannot rather be effected in the monitoring at Caversham of Near East and Eastern European transmitters of which Cyprus is expected to provide full coverage.

Sincerely yours,

L. K. WHITE

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